



# PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Two Individuals Indicted on Firearms Violations*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA – Two individuals were named in separate Indictments returned on February 6, 2007, by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Wheeling, West Virginia.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that:

WILLIAM CHRISTIAN, age 49, was named in a two-count Indictment. Count One of the Indictment alleges that CHRISTIAN, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Stoeger Arms, model Llama, .45 caliber pistol and 10 rounds of ammunition in interstate commerce on September 15, 2005, in Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia. The Indictment includes a forfeiture count wherein the United States seeks to forfeit all firearms and ammunition involved in the commission of the offense alleged in the Indictment.

NATHAN TAYLOR, age 53, was named in a two-count Indictment. Count One of the Indictment alleges that TAYLOR, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Smith and Wesson, Model 539, 9 mm pistol and 7 rounds of ammunition in interstate commerce on September 15, 2005, in Weirton. The Indictment includes a forfeiture count wherein the United States seeks to forfeit all firearms and ammunition involved in the commission of the offense alleged in the Indictment.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum exposure of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted under the *Project Safe Homes Initiative* by Assistant United States Attorney Randolph J. Bernard. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives.

It should be noted that the charges contained in the Indictments are merely accusations and not evidence of guilt, and that each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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